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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

October 6, 1999

The Honorable David M. Walker  
Comptroller General of the United States  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20538

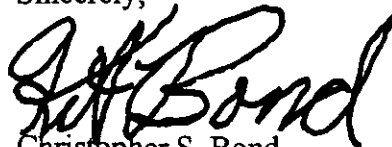
Dear Mr. Walker:

Since its inception in 1953, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has had a clear mission to serve the small business sector of the economy by providing financial, technical and management assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their own businesses. This mission is important because small businesses are a principal source of new jobs in the U.S. economy. Even though SBA has enjoyed a strong constituency and bipartisan congressional support, problems have surfaced at SBA in areas such as its business-loan program, 8(a) minority business-development program, and information-systems management.

To assist us in our monitoring and oversight efforts, we request that your office perform a body of work that will provide us with an assessment of SBA's ability to achieve effectively its mission. Specifically, we request that you review SBA's mission-critical programs, like the 8(a) and 7(a) programs, as well as agency operations in areas such as strategic and performance planning (GPRA), financial management, human capital, client services, and budget formulation and execution. We have already requested work in the information technology and contracting areas that should be included in your assessment of SBA.

The results of your work will be most useful if you provide them to the Committee over the next year and are ready to testify as necessary. We recognize that you will use the results of the individual reports to provide an overall assessment of SBA's major performance and management challenges in your 2001 Performance and Accountability series. Please contact Ms. Emilia DiSanto, Staff Director of the Small Business Committee at (202) 224-5175 to discuss this request in more detail. Thank you in advance for your continued assistance.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond  
Chairman